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Monday, September 29, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

WWII Aircraft Flights Coming to McMinn County Regional Airport



The Commemorative Air Force, Airbase Georgia, will bring two restored World War II-era aircraft to the McMinn County Regional Airport on **Friday, Oct. 10**, offering the public a rare chance to fly aboard the legendary planes.

From **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, visitors can purchase flight experiences in a Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber or a T-6 Texan trainer. Tickets must be purchased online at www.airbasegeorgia.org, with availability and prices vary-

ing depending on the aircraft. While rides are limited, admission and parking are free for those who want to view the planes on the ground, take photos, and experience a piece of living history. **Flights will depend on favorable weather conditions.**

The event coincides with the reunion of USS Charles R. Ware veterans, who return to Athens every three years to honor their ship and its namesake, Lt. Charles Rollins Ware. Born in Knoxville in 1911 and raised in McMinn County, Lt. Ware flew an SBD Dauntless in the Battle of Midway in 1942, where he and his squadron played a key role in sinking three Japanese carriers. Ware and his radioman were lost in the battle, but his legacy lived on through the USS Charles R. Ware, christened by his mother. The veterans' reunion will also support the Charles R. Ware exhibit at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, where artifacts and stories of the destroyer continue to connect local history to global events.



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- Thursday PM Athens Bicentennial Park 5:30 - 8:30ish
- Friday - Sweetwater - Little Drugs - 10:30 - 2:30



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Monday, Sept. 29, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Survives Serious Crash on I-75



A 24-year-old woman survived a serious crash early Thursday morning when her 2013 Ford Escape struck the back of an 18-wheeler parked on the shoulder of I-75 at the 56.4 mile marker. The crash happened around 1:20 a.m. Both the driver of the Ford Escape and the truck driver were transported by ambulance for treatment of injuries.

Responding agencies included the Niota Rural Fire Department, North McMinn Rural FD, McMinn County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, and AMR. Trooper Scott Freeman is leading the investigation.

Photo by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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Monday, Sept. 29, 2025

Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

TVFCU Launches 9th Annual Idea Leap Grant, \$225,000 Available for Small Businesses



9TH ANNUAL IDEA LEAP GRANT

APPLICATION PERIOD:
September 26, 2025
October 27, 2025 at 5 p.m.



The Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union (TVFCU) has announced the opening of applications for its 9th Annual Idea Leap Grant competition, offering a total of \$225,000 in grants to small business owners across its 17-county service area.

The competition will be divided into three regions — Chattanooga, Ocoee, and Northwest Georgia — with separate awards granted in each. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$30,000, giving local entrepreneurs the opportunity to invest in growth, expansion, or innovation. Each business may only apply in the region where it primarily operates.

Eligibility requirements include: businesses must be for-profit, employ between two and 25 people (including the owner), generate annual revenue of \$2.5 million or less, and have been operating and generating revenue for at least 12 months. Businesses must also be located within TVFCU's 17-county service area.

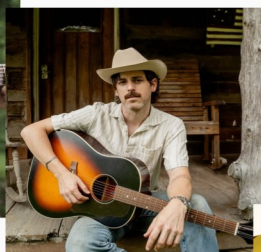
Applications officially opened Friday, Sept. 26, at 9 a.m. and will remain open until Monday, Oct. 27, at 5 p.m. ET. Applicants are encouraged to visit tvfcu.com/idealeap for full eligibility details, rules, frequently asked questions, upcoming briefing events, and to submit their applications.

Now in its ninth year, the Idea Leap Grant competition continues TVFCU's mission of supporting entrepreneurship and economic growth in the region by providing vital funding to small businesses.

SMO JAM October 4th @ 6 pm



Chris Hennessee



Adam Simons



Bay Harbison

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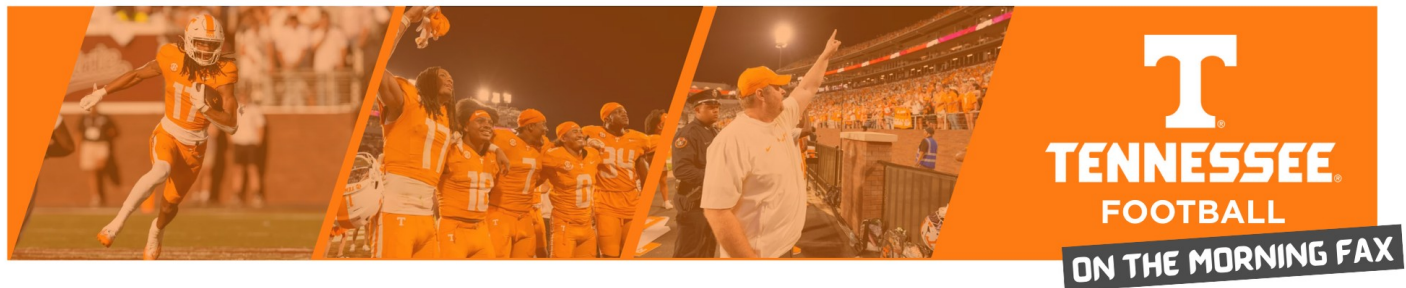
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Vols Outlast Mississippi State in Overtime Thriller, 41-34

In a battle marked by seven lead changes and dramatic swings of momentum, No. 15 Tennessee emerged with a 41-34 overtime victory over Mississippi State on Saturday at Davis Wade Stadium.

On the first snap of overtime, Tennessee running back DeSean Bishop broke free for a 25-yard touchdown run, and the Vols' defense sealed the win by stopping the Bulldogs on four straight plays inside the 5-yard line. The victory improved Tennessee to 4-1 overall and 1-1 in SEC play.

The Bulldogs struck first after recovering a muffed punt, with Fluff Bothwell scoring from five yards out. Tennessee responded with a Max Gilbert 38-yard field goal and then grabbed momentum when Colton Hood intercepted Blake Shapen and returned it 23 yards for a touchdown to take a 10-7 lead. Mississippi State regained control in the second quarter as Davon Booth punched in a short touchdown and Kyle Ferrie added a 51-yard field goal. But Tennessee evened things before halftime when Joey Aguilar found Chris Brazzell II for a 15-yard score, sending the teams into the break tied at 17.

The second half was just as back-and-forth. Gilbert's 27-yard field goal put Tennessee ahead, but Bothwell answered with his second rushing touchdown of the day to give MSU a 24-20 edge. The Vols' defense then swung momentum again, as Tyre West forced a Shapen fumble that Joshua Josephs scooped and scored to put Tennessee back in front. Ferrie tied the game at 27 with a 38-yard kick, and Shapen briefly gave State the lead again with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Seydou Traore. With less than two minutes left in regulation, Aguilar responded for Tennessee, powering into the end zone on a 6-yard run to make it 34-34 and force overtime.

Aguilar finished the day completing 24 of 40 passes for 335 yards with one passing and one rushing touchdown. Bishop added 72 rushing yards on 11 carries, while Brazzell II and Mike Matthews each recorded over 100 receiving yards. Linebacker Arion Carter led the Vols defensively with 17 tackles, including a critical stop in overtime, as Tennessee piled up five sacks and 11 tackles-for-loss. The Vols now head into their open week before returning to Neyland Stadium on Oct. 11 to host Arkansas.

HS FOOTBALL #RESULTS

McMinn Co.	61-6	Ooltewah
Soddy Daisy	7-35	Walker Valley
Sequoyah	0-33	Hixson
Cumberland Co.	0-40	McMinn Central
Meigs Co.	44-14	Sweetwater
Polk Co.	14-35	Bledsoe Co.

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Monday, Sept. 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Local Bank Donates to The Arts Center



*Front Row (L-R): Todd Watson, CNB; Chelsey Willson, AACA Board; Jason Holliman, CNB President/CEO; Lauren Brown, AACA Executive Director; Karen Siklosi, AACA Board; and Stacey Hester, CNB.
Back Row (L-R): Victoria Oathout, CNB; Danielle Roberts, CNB; Julie Jones, CNB; Patti Greek, AACA Board; and Rusty Patterson, AACA Board.*

Citizens National Bank (CNB), 1305 Decatur Pike, is a Presenting Sponsor of The Arts Center's 2025–2026 program year with a recent donation of \$2,500. Julie Jones, Branch Manager, reports that the bank is honored to support the Athens Area Council for the Arts in their mission to enhance the quality of life in our community and provide opportunities for the expression and appreciation of the arts.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

9-25-25

Ashley Christopher, 33 of Madisonville, charged with possession of schedule II meth, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jonavin Coleman, 23 of Athens, charged with felony aggravated domestic assault, Bond \$15,000

Jonathan Watts, 59 of Athens, charged with possession of schedule II meth for resale, manufacturing, delivery, selling, or possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia, Bond \$200,000

Jacinda Chadwick, 45 of Cleveland, charged with failure to appear, Bond \$4000

9-26-25

Thomas Fisher, 36 of Athens, charged with shoplifting, Bond \$1,000

Roy Jackson, 57 of Athens, charged with violation of probation, Bond \$2,657.45

Lewis Sumter, 64 of Reliance. Charged with Simple Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, and Drug Paraphernalia, Bond \$7,000

David Jones, 36 of Charleston, charged with failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$4,000

Phillip Garland, 57 of Cropwell, AL, charged with DUI Third Offense, Open Container, driving on a revoked license, Lane Law violation, and possession of a handgun while under the influence.

Jesse Lowe, 31 of Englewood, charged with violation of probation for domestic assault, Bond \$604.95

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.




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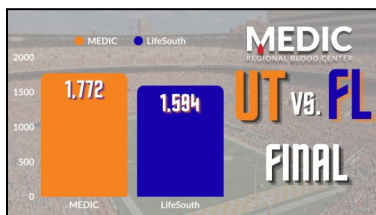
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Monday, Sept. 29, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

MEDIC Tops LifeSouth in Annual UT vs. Florida Blood Drive Challenge



MEDIC Regional Blood Center came out on top in this year's "UT vs. Florida" blood drive challenge, edging out LifeSouth Community Blood Centers in the friendly regional competition.

The drive, held September 22–26 across East Tennessee and parts of Florida, pitted the two nonprofit blood centers against each other to see which fan base—Tennessee Volunteers or Florida Gators—could rally the most donors.

When the final totals were counted, MEDIC collected **1,772 donations**, surpassing LifeSouth's **1,594**. Each donation counted as a "point" for the respective blood center, giving Tennessee the victory in the off-field rivalry.

The annual event coincides with the Tennessee–Florida football game and is designed to boost blood supplies during a critical time of year. Donors received a special edition T-shirt, while first-time donors were given a \$25 e-gift card as an added incentive. Both organizations stressed that while the competition is spirited, the real winners are the hospitals and patients who benefit from the life-saving donations.

Obituaries

Sarah Qualls Kincaid, 68, passed away Friday, September 26. Sarah loved vacationing at the beach and cooking for her family and friends. She was always willing to help anyone in any way she could. Some of her favorite times were sitting on the porch visiting with her family. Funeral Service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 29 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Peggy Carlock, 90, passed away in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service in charge of arrangements.

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